Basic Sentence Forms

A. __ __ __.
(Fragment – not a sentence and usually incorrect)

Ex. A: After the game ended.
(Error) Which was not what I had expected.

A few seconds later.

B. ________.
(Simple Sentence)

Ex. B: We went to Santa Monica for dinner.
The battery exploded.

C. __ __ __, __ __ __.
(Sentence with introducer)

Ex. C: After the game ended, we went to Santa Monica for dinner.

D. _____, __ __ __, __ __ __.
(Sentence with an interrupter)

Ex. D: We decided, after lengthy arguments, to head to Santa Monica for dinner.

E. _______ __ __ __.

or

________, __ __ __.

(Sentence with conclu dener; notice that a single comma may or may not be needed.)

The battery exploded, which was not what I had expected.

F. ________, and ________.
(Two sentences joined with comma and conjunction (and, or, so, but etc)

Ex. F: The battery exploded, so we took Jody’s car to Santa Monica.

G. ________; ________.
(Two sentences joined with a semi-colon. This works well when the sentences express contrast.)

Ex. G: The first chapter had been short and inspiring; the last was long and insipid.

H. ________ ________.
(Error: run-on sentence. Place a period between the two sentences, or join as in F or G.)

Ex. H: Phyllis got off the plane in New York her (Error) bags continued on to Boston.
I. _______, _______.  
(Error: comma splice. Place a period between the two sentences, or join as in F or G.)

Ex. I: A black-crowned night heron stood among the rushes, at dusk it would come out to hunt.

J. _______: _______.  

either or

Ex. J: The consequence was readily apparent: they would have to return immediately to port.

(Sentence fulfilled by information placed after a colon. Notice that the addition may be a sentence or a non-sentence.)

One obstacle remained: the demand for job security.